

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY BULLETIN

Vol. 43 No. 4

Fall, 1979

QUEBEC WHALES and LABRADOR TALES, personally presented by Tom Sterling
Friday, October 12....8 p.m., The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road

10,000 years ago, a massive glacier inched down eastern North America. Of the magnificent wilderness it molded, few sights are as spectacular as the 1200 foot-deep gorge it carved and through which Quebec's Saguenay River now flows into the St. Lawrence River.

At the point where the two rivers meet the French established North America's first permanent trading post in 1600. They named it Tadoussac, a word meaning "knoll" in Montagnais Indian language.

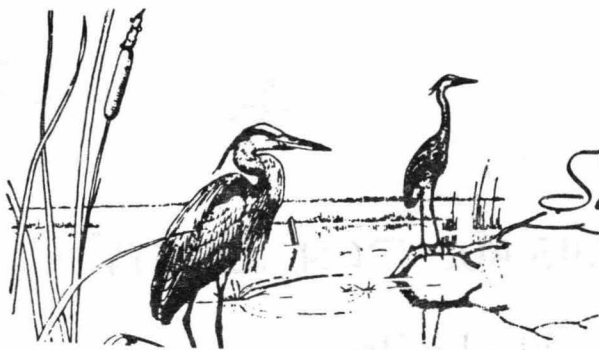
Off Tadoussac's shores is the world's greatest concentration of whale species- nine of which make these waters their summer home.

The quiet forests near Tadoussac harbor such wildlife as moose and whitetail deer, but the wilderness retreats momentarily as you move east along the rugged north shore of the St. Lawrence.

The Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway wisks you north to the vast tundra and boreal forests surrounding Labrador's new mining town, Schefferville, a base for mining operations which will inevitably scar the land. But for the moment, the bogs remain home to phalarope and snipe, spruce forests shelter black bear and courting spruce grouse. The tundra is still covered with a luxurious mat of lichen, sustenance to the caribou and territory of the intriguing little lemming and the willow ptarmigan whose staccato call echoes across this "Land of the Lichen".

We welcome you to share this rugged beauty with us at the opening of the 1979-80 Wildlife Film Series, Friday, October 12th.

THE SECOND WILDLIFE FILM OF THIS SERIES WILL BE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2. See page #5 for details.



Saint Louis Audubon Society

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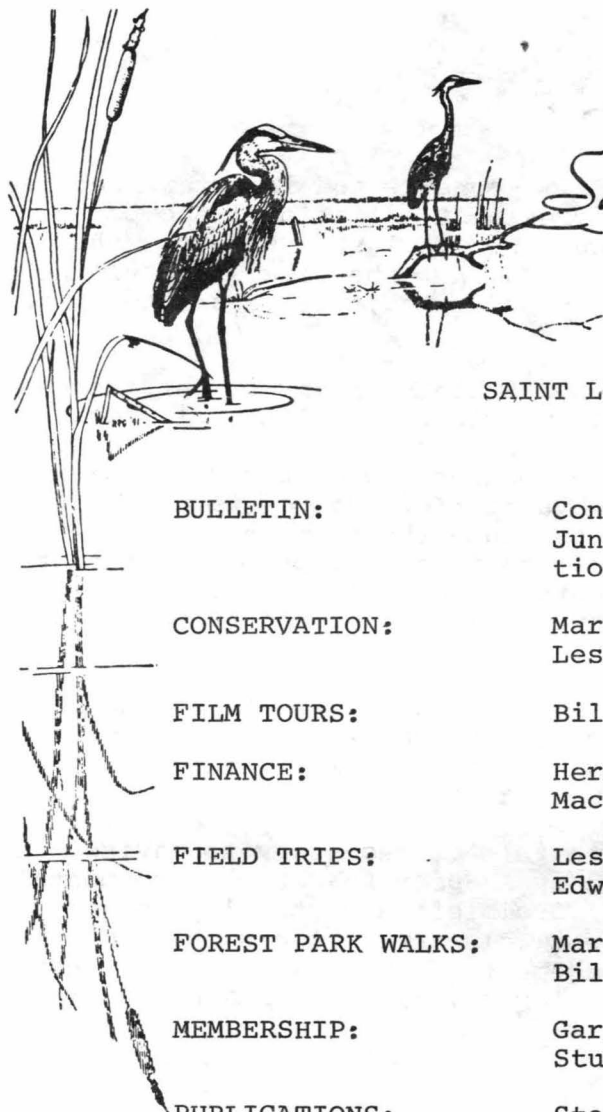
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Saint Louis Audubon Society

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1979 - 1980

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PHOTOGRAPHY:	Lee and Ed Mason
TOURS:	Connie Hath, Ellie Ernst, Tom Brooks and Martin Schweig.

A NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MISTAKE

On July 26 all Audubon Wildlife Film sponsors and lecturers received a "memorandum" from Russell Peterson, President of National Audubon, stating that the 1979-80 AWF season would be the last. He wrote that an evaluation had been made and it was decided that the escalation of the energy crisis and generally rising costs had made it necessary to do away with this film series.

The concern of the St. Louis Audubon Society in the conservation of wildlife is so great that a letter was immediately sent to all sponsors and lecturers saying that since this series started in St. Louis just after World War Two and grew from a few sponsors to over 200 in just a few years (due in great measure to the valiant efforts of Wayne Short) we would seriously consider an effort to continue the film series. There would be modifications to avoid some of the financial problems encountered by National Audubon. The recipients of the letters were asked to write St. Louis Audubon if they, too, were distressed and genuinely felt the series should continue.

They not only wrote to St. Louis Audubon, but also to National. Letters, telegrams and long distance calls poured into St. Louis with offers of assistance in any way possible. We can only presume National Audubon received the same number of protests.

While National Audubon has not yet felt it necessary to advise the present sponsors, an item has appeared in Audubon Leader, environmental newsletter of National saying- "AWF Decision 'A Mistake'", and may we add not only a mistake, but a colossal blunder. It has shaken the faith of many in the soundness of management of National Audubon. However, we must give Dr. Peterson credit for admitting a mistake had been made.

To all the people who helped in the continuation of this fine Wildlife Film Series, and who expressed to vividly their appreciation of not only the excellent programs, but the combined efforts of Paul Mauer (St. Louis claims Paul) and Bill Gowan in New York in providing smooth sailing for all concerned, we say THANK YOU.

We hope next time such a momentous decision is made by National that they will first listen to the voice of their Chapters. In fact, the Chapters ARE National Audubon Society. It would be well for the National Audubon Society to have active representation of Chapters on their Board.

THE BOTTOM LINE...we believe National Audubon Society needs not only your financial support, but they need YOU. If you believe this is true, tell them. We are now sure they listen!

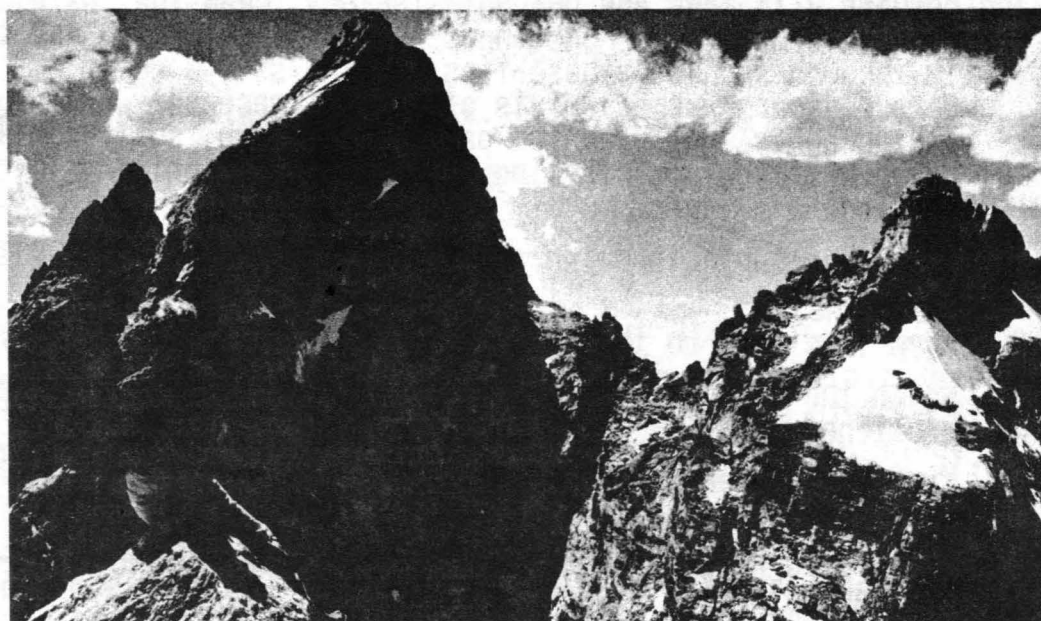
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Ty Hotchkiss on climb of Teewinot. (Ty and Julie Hotchkiss.)

Return to the Tetons

Granite peaks rise abruptly from the valley floor in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, creating a spectacular backdrop that is unequaled in the United States. It is a sight one never forgets and a place that inspires millions to return.



View of Grand Teton from summit of Teewinot.

(Marty Benham)

Ty and Julie Hotchkiss are among those who have felt the magnetic pull of these mountains through the years. Ty was a Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist in the park in the early 50's, and he and Julie spent several summers there. *Teton Trails* was their first Audubon Wildlife Film. Now they have returned after twenty years to record the changes, the abundant wildlife in the valley known as Jackson Hole and the never ending beauty of the alpine scenery that originally inspired them.

You'll join Ty and Julie as they roam the valley in late winter, follow the elk on their trek to summer pastures and record the effects of a late spring snow storm. You'll enjoy the antics of young pine martens at play and ground squirrels alert to the ever-present danger of hunting owls. A cow and calf moose feed quietly in a pond while goldeneye ducks

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

Friday, November 2...8:15 p.m.

The Ethical Society
9001 Clayton Road

cavort nearby. A calliope hummingbird feeds its young in a tiny nest on a tree limb.

There is a visit to a recently burned forest, a habitat in which some birds, plants and insects thrive. Contrary to popular belief, fire is not always harmful. It is actually needed by and beneficial to some species.

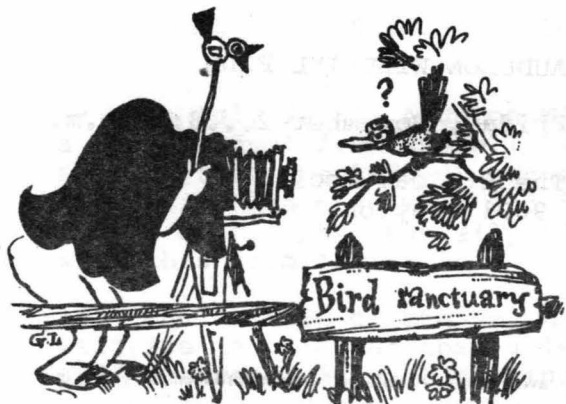
A float trip on the Snake River with a group from the Audubon Camp of the West follows and a climb to the top of Teewinot for a view of the valley from the summit.

One of the biggest changes in 20 years has been the number of people visiting the area. Though Grand Teton National Park was born in controversy, with much opposition from ranchers and local residents, it has become so popular that nearly four million people passed through in 1976. That's about one in 50 Americans and most are summer visitors.

Today, the Park Service is faced with a two-edged sword: the need to make park scenery, facilities and trails accessible to the public and, at the same time, protect the wildlife and wilderness from the overwhelming numbers of people. Overuse is a problem that confronts the Service in many areas today, and it is dramatized quite vividly in this valley where there is, in addition, a continued need to protect the valley ranches and private land from exploitation and commercialization.

YOU AND YOUR CAMERA

By Lee F. Mason



If you are the average camera user - you use it most in the summer and on your annual vacation. But a camera is for all seasons! Use it frequently all year around to sharpen your photographic skills.

CHOOSING A CAMERA: If you already have one, fine. If not and you are only interested in record photography (family photos, vacation pictures, holiday shots), and you have no photographic experience, then

consider one of the many available automatic models that are simple and virtually foolproof (For example: Instamatic, Minolta, Konica, etc.).

Be sure to allow yourself time to familiarize yourself with your camera before a vacation, special event, etc. Read the instruction manual carefully. Run a roll or two of film through the camera. Have the film developed and check the results. If they are not satisfactory, read the instructions again to be sure you have made no errors in operating the camera. Run another roll of film through and keep these tips in mind as you do so:

1. Be sure your camera lens is clean. If necessary, clean it with photographic lens-cleaning paper or a clean, soft, lintless cloth. Never use eyeglass cleaning tissues - they contain silicone and can injure a lens.
2. Have your subjects doing something, rather than just staring at the camera.
3. Move in close, so that your subject fills the viewfinder.
4. Watch the background and foreground. Keep it simple and uncluttered.
5. Keep your camera level, so that your subjects don't look as if they were leaning, or water is spilling out of a lake shot.
6. Be sure to hold your camera steady and gently s-q-u-e-e-z-e the shutter release.
7. When you take flash pictures:
Keep within the distance given in the camera manual or on the flash holder.

Avoid reflections by shooting at an angle to shiny surfaces.

Use "live" batteries. It is well to clean the battery and flash contacts often by wiping with a rough cloth or pencil eraser.

CHOOSING A FILM: It is best to stick to one type of film for all around best results in photography. If you are unsure about the proper film for you, the sales people at any reputable camera store can assist you. Or attend any of the Audubon Photography Section meetings or events - any number of people will be ready to help you.

EXPOSURE: Exposure will vary in any given situation depending upon the type of film being used. With an automatic camera, exposures will take care of themselves when the film value is set into the camera. If you have a non-automatic camera, then the use of an exposure meter is advised. However, remember that that too must be set for the film value in order to expose the film properly. If you do not have an automatic camera, and no exposure meter, then carefully follow the instruction given on the data sheet that comes with the film.

FOCUS: If your camera is one you focus yourself, be sure the image in the viewfinder is razor sharp before you shoot! If you have a fixed-focus camera, follow the manufacturer's instructions that you got with the camera.

LENSES: If the photography you want to do justifies your purchasing a camera with an interchangeable lens system, you'll have the advantage of great photographic variety. You can shoot the same picture with a number of different lenses and get as many different results. In addition to normal, wide-angle, and telephoto lenses, there are a host of special effect lenses (zoom, closeup, macro, etc.) These additional lenses, however, are primarily the tools of the advanced amateur or professional photographer.

SUBJECT MATTER: The potential is infinite. Shoot whatever appeals to you.

COMPOSITION: Be on the lookout for photographs. Really look at all of them to see what gives them appeal. Newspapers and magazines are full of photographs. A good rule of composition is to look through your viewfinder and fill the frame as completely as possible with the subject of your photograph. Another rule to keep in mind is to avoid cluttering the background (or foreground) with objects that detract from your subject matter. If you put people into your photographs, be sure they are placed far enough into the picture to add "life" without being a distraction. Never have people in a picture staring into the camera! You can make use of undistracting foreground, side, or background objects to "frame" your photographs and give them perspective.

An excellent guide for the beginning photographer is the Golden Handbook with the title: PHOTOGRAPHY, THE AMATEUR'S GUIDE TO BETTER PICTURES, available at book stores, department stores, and camera shops, and costs less than \$2.00.

Whether you are a beginner, advanced amateur or professional photographer we invite you to join in the activities of the Photography Section of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Indoor meetings are the first Tuesday of the months October through June (no meeting in January) at 7:45 p.m., in the auditorium of Clayton-Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves, Mo. Everyone is welcome - we'll be looking for you.

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OBSERVATIONS

by Jack Van Benthuyssen

Spring first arrival dates for 50 common Missouri birds.

Observer JACK VAN BENTHUYSENJ. VAN BENTHUYSEN
217 SYLVESTER AVE.
WEBSTER GROVES, MO. 63119Area covered FIFTY MILE RADIUS OF ST. LOUIS

Common Name	18.	19	19	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Pied-billed Grebe	(SOME WINTER)			3-20	1-10	3-13	4-1	3-3	3-9
Northern Shoveler	(RARE IN MILD WINTERS)			3-20	1-3	1-2	2-26	3-3	3-8
Blue-winged Teal				3-22	4-10	3-19	3-11	1-4	3-9
Turkey Vulture				3-16	3-14	2-18	4-1	3-17	3-17
Common Egret				5-17	4-10	4-2	5-4	4-27	4-19
American Coot	(SOME WINTER)			3-8	1-10	1-25	2-26	3-3	3-9
Pectoral Sandpiper				3-30	4-10	4-16	4-1	4-2	3-22
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				5-15	5-4	5-1	5-6	5-6	5-14
Whip-poor-will				5-4	4-14	4-28	4-23	4-25	5-3
Common Nighthawk				4-24	4-27	4-28	5-5	4-28	4-30
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				5-5	5-2	5-1	5-4	5-2	4-16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	(COM. WINTER)			4-5	1-3	1-8	1-21	1-28	1-8
Eastern Kingbird				4-26	4-25	4-26	4-23	4-26	4-22
Great Crested Flycatcher				4-26	4-30	4-26	4-23	4-26	4-25
Eastern Phoebe				4-5	3-14	3-22	3-26	4-2	3-1
Least Flycatcher				5-1	4-25	5-1	5-5	4-30	4-22
Eastern Wood Pewee				4-19	4-11	4-16	5-4	4-30	5-2
Barn Swallow				3-30	4-10	4-10	4-16	4-2	4-9
Rough-winged Swallow				3-30	4-10	4-10	4-1	4-8	4-19
Purple Martin				4-20	4-10	4-2	3-26	4-1	3-29
House Wren				4-18	4-16	4-21	4-22	4-28	4-15
Bewick's Wren (LOCAL BREEDER, BUT GEN. TRANSIENT)				3-16	3-27	3-30	4-3	3-26	1-8
Catbird				4-30	4-22	4-26	4-24	4-29	4-19
Wood Thrush				4-25	4-20	4-25	4-22	4-27	4-25
Swainson's Thrush				4-27	4-21	4-26	4-23	4-25	4-22
Gray Cheeked Thrush				4-29	4-25	4-26	5-2	4-26	4-25
White-eyed Vireo				5-4	4-25	5-1	4-23	4-30	4-22
Bell's Vireo	(LOCAL BREEDER)			5-10	5-2	5-14	7-4	6-17	5-20
Yellow-throated Vireo				4-30	5-8	5-1	5-4	5-1	4-19
Red-eyed Vireo				4-27	4-11	4-25	4-23	4-27	4-25
Warbling Vireo				4-26	4-24	4-25	4-23	4-26	4-19
Tennessee Warbler				4-20	4-19	4-26	4-29	4-28	4-28
Nashville Warbler				4-27	4-25	4-26	4-30	4-30	4-25
Parula Warbler				4-20	4-10	4-26	4-23	4-20	4-18
Yellow Warbler				4-27	4-25	4-22	4-23	4-28	4-19
Chestnut-sided Warbler				5-17	5-2	5-1	5-6	5-1	5-4
Black-poll Warbler				5-15	5-2	5-1	5-7	5-6	5-4
Palm Warbler				4-26	4-18	4-25	4-26	4-26	4-29
Louisiana Waterthrush				4-20	4-19	4-2	4-8	4-10	4-11
Yellowthroat				4-26	4-11	4-22	4-26	4-27	4-25
Kentucky Warbler				5-1	4-25	4-26	4-26	4-26	4-25
Yellow-breasted Chat				4-27	5-2	5-1	5-2	5-1	4-29
Orchard Oriole				4-26	4-27	4-26	5-6	4-27	5-2
Northern Oriole				4-27	4-25	4-29	4-23	4-26	4-28
Summer Tanager				4-27	5-1	4-28	4-23	4-28	4-28
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				4-25	4-23	4-30	5-3	4-28	4-25
Indigo Bunting				4-27	4-25	4-29	4-23	4-28	4-29
Dickcissel				5-4	4-25	4-29	4-29	4-28	4-28
Grasshopper Sparrow	(LOCAL BREEDER)			4-27	5-2	5-1	5-21	4-28	4-30
Chipping Sparrow	(RARE IN WINTER)			4-17	3-20	3-22	4-8	4-14	4-7
Field Sparrow	(COM. WINTER)			1-11	1-11	1-1	1-21	3-17	1-9

Spring first arrival dates for 50 common Missouri birds.

Observer JACK VAN BENTHUYSEN

J. VAN BENTHUYSEN
217 SYLVESTER AVE.
WEBSTER GROVES, MO. 63118

Area covered FIFTY MILE RADIUS OF ST. LOUIS

Common Name	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Pied-billed Grebe	3-12	3-8	3-7	3-18	4-12	4-8	3-26	4-6	4-3
Northern Shoveler	3-9	3-20	3-7	3-24	4-12	5-4	3-26	—	4-25
Blue-winged Teal	3-24	4-10	3-22	4-17	4-12	4-8	3-26	4-6	4-11
Turkey Vulture	4-10	✓	5-1	4-3	5-5	4-8	5-3	3-24	5-20
Common Egret	5-3	4-30	4-23	4-6	10-4	4-21	3-31	4-6	3-29
American Coot	3-8	3-6	3-14	3-18	4-12	4-8	3-26	4-6	3-15
Pectoral Sandpiper	3-24	✓	4-16	4-17	4-12	5-4	3-26	4-6	4-11
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5-18	✓	5-8	8-10	4-29	5-10	5-3	4-28	5-15
Whip-poor-will	4-23	4-14	4-29	5-1	6-27	5-4	4-30	5-1	5-9
Common Nighthawk	4-28	✓	5-2	5-1	4-24	5-4	5-3	4-26	5-5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5-24	✓	5-16	5-6	5-5	5-12	8-1	5-1	8-20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3-7	4-10	1-2	4-6	3-7	10-12	3-31	—	2-9
Eastern Kingbird	4-26	✓	5-1	4-28	4-24	4-25	4-27	4-23	4-25
Great Crested Flycatcher	4-25	✓	4-22	4-29	4-23	4-25	4-30	4-25	4-25
Eastern Phoebe	4-1	✓	3-11	3-23	3-28	4-8	3-24	3-27	4-24
Least Flycatcher	4-29	✓	5-1	5-6	4-30	5-4	5-3	5-1	5-4
Eastern Wood Pewee	5-1	✓	5-8	4-30	5-5	5-4	5-3	4-28	5-5
Barn Swallow	4-12	✓	4-12	4-15	4-23	4-8	4-23	4-6	4-11
Rough-winged Swallow	4-12	✓	4-16	4-17	4-22	4-21	4-27	4-28	4-11
Purple Martin	3-28	✓	3-31	3-18	3-23	4-1	3-26	4-28	4-3
House Wren	4-12	4-10	4-21	4-21	4-22	4-20	4-17	4-23	4-21
Bewick's Wren	3-21	✓	4-10	3-30	4-8	4-5	3-17	3-27	3-24
Catbird	4-29	✓	5-8	4-28	4-24	5-4	5-3	4-28	4-25
Wood Thrush	4-24	✓	4-21	4-27	4-25	5-4	4-30	4-23	4-25
Swainson's Thrush	4-27	✓	4-22	4-28	4-23	4-29	4-27	4-24	4-25
Gray Cheeked Thrush	4-27	✓	4-28	4-29	4-24	5-4	5-3	4-28	5-1
White-eyed Vireo	5-3	✓	4-16	4-28	4-25	5-4	4-21	5-1	4-25
Bell's Vireo	5-12	✓	5-16	5-6	5-17	5-16	4-21	5-1	4-25
Yellow-throated Vireo	4-20	4-14	4-16	4-28	4-18	5-1	4-27	4-28	4-21
Red-eyed Vireo	4-27	✓	4-23	4-28	4-23	4-25	4-30	4-28	4-21
Warbling Vireo	4-27	✓	4-23	4-26	4-18	5-1	4-23	4-28	4-21
Tennessee Warbler	4-25	✓	4-23	4-26	4-23	4-25	4-26	4-26	4-22
Nashville Warbler	4-25	✓	4-29	4-29	4-25	4-25	5-1	5-1	5-1
Parula Warbler	4-27	✓	4-16	4-15	4-18	5-4	4-30	5-1	4-25
Yellow Warbler	4-29	✓	4-26	4-29	5-3	5-2	4-30	4-28	4-24
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5-12	5-2	5-15	5-10	5-13	5-4	5-3	5-1	5-7
Black-poll Warbler	4-30	5-2	8-4	5-15	4-23	5-4	5-3	5-1	5-7
Palm Warbler	4-24	✓	4-26	4-28	4-23	4-25	4-30	4-26	5-1
Louisiana Waterthrush	4-25	4-10	4-12	4-16	4-18	5-4	4-23	4-28	4-21
Yellowthroat	4-25	✓	4-26	4-25	4-23	4-25	4-27	4-28	4-21
Kentucky Warbler	4-25	✓	4-12	4-29	4-23	4-24	4-30	4-28	4-25
Yellow-breasted Chat	4-28	✓	4-26	4-30	5-1	5-4	5-3	5-1	4-25
Orchard Oriole	4-30	✓	4-23	4-26	4-26	5-4	5-3	4-28	4-25
Northern Oriole	4-27	✓	4-23	4-26	4-23	5-4	4-26	4-28	5-4
Summer Tanager	4-30	✓	5-1	4-28	4-25	4-29	4-30	4-28	5-4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4-27	✓	4-23	4-27	4-23	5-1	4-30	4-24	4-30
Indigo Bunting	4-29	5-2	4-26	4-30	4-24	5-4	4-30	5-1	4-22
Dickcissel	4-28	5-2	4-26	4-28	5-3	5-3	5-3	4-28	5-7
Grasshopper Sparrow	4-28	✓	4-16	4-26	6-6	5-4	5-3	5-1	5-7
Chipping Sparrow	4-9	1-2	4-8	4-6	4-18	4-10	3-26	4-28	4-18
Field Sparrow	1-13	1-2	1-2	1-4	2-12	4-1	3-24	1-9	1-4

Spring first arrival dates for 50 common Missouri birds,

Observer JACK VAN BENTHUYSEN

J. VAN BENTHUYSEN
217 SYLVESTER AVE.
WEBSTER GROVES, MO. 63118

Area covered FIFTY MILE RADIUS OF ST. LOUIS

Common Name	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Pied-billed Grebe	3-27	3-17	3-28	10-3	4-3	3-22	3-13	4-22	1-1
Northern Shoveler	4-10	4-11	4-28	4-11	4-3	4-4	3-24	3-30	3-8
Blue-winged Teal	4-10	3-19	4-28	3-29	3-27	4-4	3-13	3-30	4-7
Turkey Vulture	5-6	4-29	3-23	2-14	3-2	3-17	3-5	3-30	3-4
Common Egret	4-16	4-11	5-3	5-8	4-22	5-2	5-27	4-9	4-7
American Coot	3-4	3-17	2-23	2-14	1-13	1-6	3-10	3-10	1-1
Pectoral Sandpiper	5-6	4-29	5-3	5-8	5-7	3-71	4-21	5-10	5-8
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5-6	5-5	5-10	5-5	5-7	6-3	5-18	4-29	5-9
Whip-poor-will	4-25	4-19	5-3	4-28	4-24	4-22	4-27	4-27	4-22
Common Nighthawk	5-1	5-5	4-27	5-3	4-28	5-1	4-30	5-2	4-27
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5-5	5-12	5-3	5-8	5-7	4-22	4-27	5-10	5-2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4-10	4-9	2-14	1-31	4-10	3-26	3-17	4-20	1-1
Eastern Kingbird	4-26	4-25	4-21	4-8	5-4	4-22	4-30	4-29	4-19
Great Crested Flycatcher	5-1	4-25	4-21	4-24	5-4	4-21	4-30	4-28	4-27
Eastern Phoebe	4-10	4-19	4-25	4-11	3-21	3-24	4-1	3-23	4-5
Least Flycatcher	5-6	5-5	5-3	5-5	5-7	5-7	5-13	5-2	4-28
Eastern Wood Pewee	5-6	5-5	5-3	5-8	5-7	5-7	5-4	4-29	5-9
Barn Swallow	4-10	4-18	4-21	4-8	4-13	4-4	4-5	4-13	4-19
Rough-winged Swallow	4-16	4-29	4-26	4-11	4-27	4-22	4-25	4-29	5-9
Purple Martin	4-10	4-13	3-23	4-7	4-3	4-4	4-5	4-9	4-7
House Wren	4-25	4-19	4-21	4-23	4-23	4-15	4-21	4-21	4-19
Bewick's Wren	4-10	3-29	4-6	2-9	4-3	4-13	3-17	4-2	4-24
Catbird	5-4	5-3	4-28	4-29	5-7	4-28	4-28	4-29	5-8
Wood Thrush	4-26	4-21	4-21	5-1	5-4	5-7	4-27	4-29	5-9
Swainson's Thrush	4-26	4-20	4-25	4-29	5-4	4-26	4-22	4-28	4-28
Gray Cheeked Thrush	4-28	5-5	4-25	5-8	5-7	5-7	5-4	5-2	5-7
White-eyed Vireo	5-6	4-19	5-3	5-8	5-4	4-22	4-27	4-29	5-9
Bell's Vireo	5-6	5-5	5-3	5-8	5-7	5-7	5-4	5-10	8-12
Yellow-throated Vireo	5-6	4-19	4-23	5-2	5-7	5-7	4-27	4-29	5-9
Red-eyed Vireo	5-1	4-25	4-21	4-29	4-27	5-7	4-25	4-28	5-7
Warbling Vireo	4-27	4-19	4-22	4-22	4-27	4-13	4-21	4-20	4-22
Tennessee Warbler	4-26	4-28	4-24	4-24	4-30	4-30	4-22	4-27	4-26
Nashville Warbler	5-6	4-29	4-25	4-23	5-1	4-18	5-4	4-26	4-21
Parula Warbler	5-6	5-3	4-26	4-11	5-7	4-22	4-21	4-28	4-28
Yellow Warbler	5-6	4-29	5-3	5-8	5-7	5-4	4-21	5-2	5-8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5-6	5-3	5-3	9-13	5-7	5-15	5-4	5-5	5-9
Black-poll Warbler	5-6	5-5	4-26	5-8	5-4	5-6	5-4	4-29	5-7
Palm Warbler	4-26	4-20	4-22	4-29	5-1	5-4	4-27	4-28	4-28
Louisiana Waterthrush	5-6	4-13	4-26	4-11	5-4	4-22	4-27	5-2	5-7
Yellowthroat	4-28	4-25	4-23	4-24	4-27	4-22	4-29	4-29	5-7
Kentucky Warbler	4-27	4-29	4-23	4-27	4-27	4-22	5-4	4-29	5-9
Yellow-breasted Chat	5-6	4-29	5-3	4-29	5-7	4-22	5-4	4-29	5-9
Orchard Oriole	5-6	4-19	4-23	5-5	5-7	4-22	5-4	4-29	5-9
Northern Oriole	4-26	4-25	4-21	5-5	5-7	5-4	4-21	4-29	4-28
Summer Tanager	5-6	4-25	4-24	5-2	5-4	4-22	4-21	4-28	4-28
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4-28	4-23	4-30	5-3	5-4	4-30	5-4	4-28	4-28
Indigo Bunting	5-6	4-19	4-26	4-24	5-4	4-22	4-29	4-28	4-28
Dickcissel	5-6	4-29	4-28	5-5	5-7	4-22	5-4	5-6	5-8
Grasshopper Sparrow	5-6	4-29	5-13	5-8	5-7	5-7	5-4	5-10	5-9
Chipping Sparrow	4-22	4-11	4-9	4-22	4-26	4-6	5-2	4-29	4-16
Field Sparrow	4-10	3-17	3-23	4-1	3-21	4-3	3-24	1-1	1-2

Spring first arrival dates for 50 common Missouri birds.

J. VAN BENTHUYSEN
217 SYLVESTER AVE.
WEBSTER GROVES, MO. 63112

Observer JACK VAN BENTHUYSEN

Area covered FIFTY MILE RADIUS OF ST. LOUIS

Common Name	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Pied-billed Grebe	1-2	3-12	5-5	3-4	3-25	2-22	3-8	3-12	3-15
Northern Shoveler	—	3-19	5-5	12-15	4-6	3-7	3-8	3-12	3-19
Blue-winged Teal	4-27	3-19	4-30	4-10	3-31	3-17	3-13	4-12	3-17
Turkey Vulture	5-3	2-28	3-28	4-8	5-4	5-12	4-5	4-22	3-13
Common Egret	5-3	4-12	6-1	5-4	4-16	3-31	4-27	5-6	4-25
American Coot	2-21	2-17	4-22	4-10	3-25	1-25	3-8	3-29	2-28
Pectoral Sandpiper	5-3	4-23	3-30	5-4	4-6	3-29	3-26	4-23	3-17
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5-8	5-3	4-30	5-4	5-10	5-31	5-1	5-8	5-5
Whip-poor-will	4-25	4-22	5-5	5-31	4-22	4-30	5-8	4-23	5-27
Common Nighthawk	5-5	4-30	5-4	5-3	4-24	4-28	5-5	5-6	4-24
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5-6	5-6	5-17	5-4	4-27	4-27	5-1	5-16	5-27
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1-10	4-17	1-7	1-5	1-12	3-23	1-2	1-29	1-1
Eastern Kingbird	5-3	5-1	4-24	4-21	4-17	4-30	4-27	4-26	4-21
Great Crested Flycatcher	4-23	4-30	4-26	5-2	4-21	4-24	4-30	4-28	5-2
Eastern Phoebe	4-24	3-19	5-5	5-4	4-7	3-7	3-18	4-9	5-27
Least Flycatcher	5-7	5-3	5-3	4-29	4-27	4-26	5-7	5-8	5-5
Eastern Wood Pewee	5-6	5-3	5-5	4-27	4-25	5-21	5-6	5-5	5-12
Barn Swallow	4-26	3-21	4-22	4-21	4-10	3-26	4-4	4-2	4-19
Rough-winged Swallow	4-27	4-23	4-22	4-21	4-16	4-2	4-24	4-19	4-19
Purple Martin	4-26	3-19	4-13	4-21	4-16	3-29	4-5	4-7	4-8
House Wren	4-11	4-14	4-20	4-13	4-23	4-17	4-16	4-8	4-17
Bewick's Wren	4-18	3-6	4-14	3-2	4-26	4-22	3-30	3-29	5-5
Catbird	4-23	4-24	4-24	4-23	4-20	4-18	4-30	4-30	4-22
Wood Thrush	5-6	4-23	4-26	4-23	4-27	4-26	4-23	4-29	4-25
Swainson's Thrush	4-28	4-19	4-22	4-28	4-20	4-16	4-20	4-29	5-3
Gray Cheeked Thrush	5-3	5-1	4-30	4-29	4-28	4-22	5-5	5-1	5-5
White-eyed Vireo	5-3	4-30	4-22	4-28	5-5	4-25	4-17	4-29	5-4
Bell's Vireo	7-10	5-6	5-5	5-5	5-10	5-8	5-7	5-17	7-4
Yellow-throated Vireo	4-27	4-30	4-24	4-29	4-25	4-22	4-18	4-29	5-2
Red-eyed Vireo	4-26	4-23	4-24	4-28	4-25	4-20	5-5	4-29	4-25
Warbling Vireo	4-24	4-18	4-22	4-21	4-25	4-18	4-14	4-19	4-21
Tennessee Warbler	4-25	4-26	4-21	4-24	4-23	4-20	4-19	4-26	4-24
Nashville Warbler	4-28	5-1	4-24	4-28	4-26	4-26	4-17	4-29	5-1
Parula Warbler	4-27	4-23	4-22	4-21	4-20	4-11	4-17	4-22	4-24
Yellow Warbler	5-3	4-23	4-22	5-4	5-5	5-5	5-2	4-26	4-21
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5-8	5-6	5-3	4-28	4-28	5-6	5-5	5-8	5-9
Black-poll Warbler	5-8	4-30	5-7	4-29	4-28	4-29	5-5	4-29	5-5
Palm Warbler	4-27	4-23	4-22	4-28	4-17	4-22	4-19	4-29	4-21
Louisiana Waterthrush	4-27	4-23	4-26	4-21	4-30	3-26	4-17	4-29	4-25
Yellowthroat	4-18	4-23	4-22	4-21	4-20	4-21	4-17	4-29	4-21
Kentucky Warbler	4-27	4-23	4-30	5-4	4-26	4-30	5-5	5-5	5-5
Yellow-breasted Chat	5-8	5-1	5-5	5-4	5-10	5-7	5-7	5-15	5-5
Orchard Oriole	4-25	5-1	5-5	5-4	5-10	5-8	5-7	5-6	4-21
Northern Oriole	5-3	4-23	4-20	4-24	4-17	4-25	5-1	4-26	4-25
Summer Tanager	5-2	4-30	4-25	5-2	4-28	4-27	5-2	4-29	4-28
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4-27	5-1	4-26	4-28	4-25	4-25	5-2	4-28	4-25
Indigo Bunting	5-3	5-1	4-26	4-14	4-28	4-17	5-1	4-28	5-5
Dickcissel	5-3	4-30	4-30	5-4	5-10	4-27	5-5	5-6	5-5
Grasshopper Sparrow	7-10	5-6	4-29	6-12	5-10	5-8	5-7	5-27	5-9
Chipping Sparrow	4-18	4-13	3-28	3-29	4-20	4-14	4-15	4-19	4-18
Field Sparrow	1-2	1-2	3-11	1-12	4-6	3-7	1-2	1-2	3-18

THE SERIOUS SIDE OF BIRDING

Paul E. Bauer

Every sensitive person enjoys seeing beautiful wild creatures. Ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, founder of Bird Lore which preceeded Audubon magazine, said, "Everyone is born with a bird in his heart". When the enjoyment of seeing birds becomes a driving passion, you have moved from bird watcher to birder; you no longer consider your activities as bird watching, but you go-birding!

It must be the dynamics of birding that makes it such an all-consuming hobby. The challenges are both mental and physical. One major challenge is the desire to be able to identify every bird sighted or heard. In my mind one advantage of birding over other outdoor hobbies is that the adventure of the hunt has no closed season and no limits, except the physical challenge of your own endurance. Many people pursue birding in severe winter weather, at night as well as day, in any weather and every season on almost any spot on earth and even at sea.

The unknown element of birding adds the greatest measure of excitement to the hunt. Finding a rare bird or a new bird for the area makes you an instant local hero. Finding early or late arrivals during migration also contributes to the unexpected pleasures that can occur on any birding trip. From the published records of unusual bird observations, it would seem that any bird can be seen in almost any place. Amateur birders provide the huge bulk of field observations in North America.

The value of this huge volume of field observations has grown tremendously important as the quantity and quality of bird observations has increased. An individual observation of an unusual bird may seem trivial, but hundreds of observations collected and evaluated by knowledgeable people provides amazing insight to population trends, and can provide early warning clues that adverse influences of our complex society may have altered the environment necessary for continued survival. Since learning the lesson from DDT pesticides and the resulting thin egg shells that would not support incubation, we collectively have become more acutely aware of the need for early warning clues. These clues come from the numerous bird observations that are properly reported.

Now we have arrived at the "serious side of birding" when we realize that our routine birding observations can actually contribute to protecting the very birds we enjoy seeing. These observations only have a value when we take the time to properly report them so they can contribute to our collective knowledge.

If you accept the above described need for reporting birding observations, several questions arise that must be answered:

1. What birding records should be kept
2. What determines if a bird is noteworthy or unusual
3. What information is wanted for unusual birds
4. Who should be notified

Let me tackle these questions one at a time, realizing that they are tailored for the St. Louis area which includes portions of Missouri and Illinois.

1. Birding Records- The key element is what species were seen. The number of birds seen for each species is useful but more effort to tabulate all day; mostly wanted for Christmas counts or breeding bird census activities, but can be useful to visitors or later review in the future if population changes have been large. Even estimated numbers are better than words such as many or few. Other data desired includes: date; major places visited; temperature, sky and wind conditions which affects bird movements; observers present, especially those most experienced with an unusual bird; hours in the field; miles walked and/or driven to indicate extent of coverage; and comments on any special conditions.

The use of a printed checklist makes the collection of this sort of data easy, uniform in content and presentation, and easy to review in the future. A group of people birding together should always compile a composite day list before disbanding to provide a meaningful future record.

2. Unusual Birds- Often a checklist will provide a strong clue. The Complete List of St. Louis Area Birds has three indications that a bird is noteworthy:

- a) An * behind the species name indicates it is very rare for the area, since only 2 to 5 records exist
- b) If the bird is accidental and only one record exists, it is shown in a special group at the end of the normal checklist for special emphasis
- c) If the bird is not included on the published list, it is most noteworthy since it has never been previously reported and accepted for the area (or was seen after the last publication).

A checklist does not usually provide data on the usual time of arrival and departure for migrants, which birds breed, and the relative abundance or commonness of a bird species. Usually this information is available from local birding guides. (At present, the St. Louis Area Birding Guide is out of print and is actively being revised and updated from 1968).

Other indications of unusual birds include: the Rare and Endangered List published by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1977 edition); or the latest (1978) Blue List of Special Concern or threatened birds published annually in American Birds by the National Audubon Society. A composite of these lists tailored to the Missouri area is published at the end of this article in a form that can be inserted into your fieldguide inside cover.

3. Unusual Bird Data Wanted- It is essential to always carry a small note book into the field to be able to record on-the-spot details as you saw the bird, not as you study the field guide that evening at home. The notes can be rewritten later to be more presentable, but the original data is most valuable if taken while observing the unusual bird. Although standard forms exist to provide verifying documentation of an extraordinary sight record, it is not required that they be used as long as all of the required data are provided.

Provide species name; number seen; specific location seen; date; time seen (from ___ to ___); good description of size, shape, color-pattern of all parts of the plumage, beak and feet coloration, diagnostic characteristics as seen in the field; describe voice (if heard); bird behavior; habitat general and/or specific; describe

similar appearing species eliminated by previous four questions; distance to bird (measured or estimated); optical equipment and power; quality of light for viewing or position of sun in relation to bird and you; previous experience with this species and similar appearing species; other observers; was there agreement on the identification; other observers who independently identified this bird; books, illustrations and advice consulted and resulting influence on above description; time elapsed after observing this bird until initial description was written; your signature and printed name; address, city, state, zip; date submitted. Many authorities now recognize that sight records can be as reliable as a collected bird species if properly documented. Many birders do not like to see rare birds collected, even for scientific reasons, so the effort of reporting is worthwhile.

It should be remembered that this above extensive documentation is very valuable, but only necessary for extraordinary sightings, which means all bird records that are the first sighting in an area, and certainly those birds that are rare or accidental, and have been seen only 1 to 5 times previously.

Those birds on the Missouri Rare/Endangered/ Blue List should also be documented in a similar manner. However, the descriptive details to verify the bird identification may be greatly reduced or omitted as appropriate, unless of course the bird is also indicated on the St. Louis checklist in the 1 to 5 sightings category or shown as accidental or rare on the checklist for Missouri Birds considering the local region of the state and season of the year involved.

4. Who Should Be Notified- If an accidental or rare bird is to be properly documented to become an accepted record, it is important to try to get other birders to confirm and verify the unusual sighting. For this reason it is desirable to go birding with at least one other birder. If you are alone, be sure to study the bird extensively and make all the required notes in your notebook before heading to the nearest telephone.

If your birding is in the St. Louis area (Missouri or Illinois), notify the Birding "Hot Line" at any of the three prime numbers below. They will contact someone in each key group and try to get birders to the spot as soon as possible, if that type of response is warranted.

Mrs. Katherine Arhos 631-3090

Mrs. Terry Barker 878-8617

Mrs. Phoebe Snetsinger 968-3442

The key things to report are: What bird was seen; When was it seen; Where was it seen (road directions for others); Who first saw it; what plumage.

Documentation for St. Louis area birds (Missouri or Illinois) should now be mailed to:

Mrs. Phoebe B. Snetsinger

420 Algonquin Pl.

Webster Groves, Mo. 63119

She will collect the records for the St. Louis area (within 50 miles of St. Louis city limits) and send them to the proper state authorities. Also include copies of slides or photographs made. Indicate if you want them returned.

All birding records for Missouri are being coordinated by Jim Wilson and Jim Rathert. So non-St. Louis area records for Missouri should be mailed directly to:

Mr. Jim D. Wilson, Ornithologist
Missouri Department of Conservation
2901 N. Ten Mile Dr. (P.O. Box 180)
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

All birding records for Illinois are coordinated by Vernon Kleen. Also Mr. Kleen is regional editor of the Middlewestern Prairie Region for American Birds which publishes the noteworthy birding records for the United States and Canada. His address is :

Mr. Vernon M. Kleen
Div. of Wildlife Resources
Ill. Dept. of Conservation
Springfield, Ill. 62706

Birding Seasons used by American Birds for Records are:

Autumn Migration:	1 Aug - 30 Nov
Winter Season:	1 Dec - 28 Feb
Spring Migration:	1 Mar - 31 May
Nesting Season:	1 Jun - 31 July

Remember your birding observations are more than enjoyable, they are valuable in protecting the birds if properly reported.
KEEP HAVING FUN - GO BIRDING.



NEST-BOX PROGRAM AIDS BARN OWLS

The changing face of American architecture has been bad news for the barn owl. The trim barns and silos of modern farming establishments and the attached garages of today's suburban homes offer fewer nesting and roosting sites than did the old-fashioned, more open barns and carriage houses.

A recent experiment in northern Utah indicates that nesting boxes can give barn owls a big boost. In two years 154 young were fledged from boxes in the test area. In 1978, the second year of the experiment, owls nested in 24 of the 30 boxes provided.

Biologists say good results can be expected anywhere within the species' natural range where voles, rats, mice and other prey are plentiful, where owl nesting sites are limited and where a small breeding or transient population of barn owls exist as a nucleus.

If you are interested in undertaking a barn owl nesting box program please get in touch with the Saint Louis Audubon Society.

JUNIOR AUDUBON NEWS

by Beverly J. Letchworth



ANYTHING GOES

Happy Autumn to you! I found some bird symbols to share with you.

BLUEBIRD HAPPINESS

DOVE PEACE AND GENTLENESS

EAGLE BRAVERY AND COURAGE

GOOSE STUPIDITY

OWL WISDOM

PEACOCK PRIDE AND VANITY

#####



WILDLIFE TRAILS

While driving through Missouri and Arkansas this summer on vacation we saw many turkey vultures soaring in the sky. One time we saw a dozen and a half of these big birds circling low over a small farm pond. Apparently they had found food there.

CLOSE UP, VULTURES ARE UGLY BIRDS TO ME, BUT IN THE AIR THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL FOR THEY FLY SO GRACEFULLY. THE TURKEY VULTURE (RED HEAD) IS LARGER BY SEVERAL INCHES THAN THE BLACK VULTURE (BLACK HEAD). I HAVE NEVER HEARD ONE UTTER A SOUND, BUT WHEN FEEDING OR AT THEIR NEST, EXPERTS SAY, THEY SOMETIMES WILL HISS OR GRUNT.

Turkey vultures lay their eggs in a crevice in rocks, in a hollow tree, or in a fallen hollow log. They make no attempt to line the nook with any nesting material.

VULTURES ARE SCAVENGERS AND ARE VALUABLE TO THE WORLD BECAUSE THEY CLEAN UP GARBAGE AND DISEASE*CAUSING CARRION. SCIENTISTS NOW FEEL THAT TURKEY VULTURES CAN LOCATE DEAD ANIMALS BY SMELL, BUT THAT BLACK VULTURES CANNOT. THEY FIND FOOD BY SIGHT.

Next time you are out driving in the country, look up and watch. Probably before long, you'll see some vultures in the sky. They are a pretty sight plus they do a great service.



UPBEAT

- ! Bald eagles are up! In National Wildlife Federation's latest census, 9,836 eagles were counted in the "lower 48" states. This is twice the number counted in any previous survey.
- ! A surprise from a common, three-petaled wildflower! The Spiderwort can be used to detect low levels of radiation more accurately than now-used mechanical devices. A change in the color of the cells in the stamen hairs means radiation in the environment.
- ! Huge shaggy-haired Hungarian dogs called Komondors are being trained in the U.S. to protect ranchers' sheep from coyotes. In tests, the 120-pound dogs scare coyotes simply by walking past them.
- ! It will cost an estimated \$7.5 million to save the California Condor from extinction. There are only 30 alive today down from 40 in 1973. Are we acting in time or is it already too late to save the biggest birds in North America?

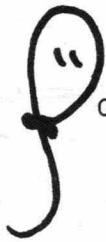


OFFBEAT

Here are some interesting facts that are fun to know . . .

- * The largest bird in the world is the ostrich. It weighs up to 300 pounds. The smallest bird in the world is the bee hummingbird of Cuba measuring only 2 1/4 inches in length.
- * Adult toads have been known to eat 10,000 insects in one summer.
- * There are estimated to be 100 billion birds in the world.
- * For the first few days after hatching, young songbirds are "cold-blooded". Only after they reach 5-6 days old do their body temperatures go up to what is normal for an adult bird.
- * When a lumberman speaks of "hardwood" trees, he means broadleafed trees. When he talks of "softwood" trees, he means any cone-bearing trees.

#####



GAME FUN

A=ACORN

B=BUTTERFLY

A

E

Next time you're out hiking with friends, have fun with a game called "I Took A Trip On The Adventure Trail".

The first person starts out by naming something he sees or has seen on the trail that begins with the letter A. The next person tries to name something that starts with a B. The game goes on with each person naming a natural history item for his letter of the alphabet.

Each name gets one point, and the person with the most points at the end wins the game.

F

G

C=CATERPILLAR

H

I

D

J

NEW DUES POLICY IS ADOPTED

National Audubon has adopted the policy of raising dues at regular intervals in line with inflation. The National board voted to increase individual memberships to \$20 and family memberships to \$25, effective October 1, 1979.

The St. Louis Audubon Society is indeed sorry the increase was made, and we wish expenses had been cut. We are also sorry that National has launched a 7.5 million direct mail campaign. All membership dues obtained by this mailing will be retained by National and Chapters will not receive a share. Yet the Chapter must bear the expense of mailing newsletters, releases, notices of events, etc. It is an expense that the St. Louis Chapter is finding difficult to assume.

In order that those of you who find \$20 and \$25 just a bit too much, we have established a local (subscription) membership for just \$8.00, per year. You will receive the same benefits, but the National magazine, Audubon, will not be mailed you. You will not receive solicitations to purchase plates, pictures, silver and on and on. You will receive all mailings of the St. Louis Chapter, and all notices of events.

Checks must be made payable to St. Louis Audubon Society and mailed to the St. Louis office. See page #19 of this BULLETIN for the mailing blank and address.

We are sincere in our desire to help fight inflation, and we will give you a great deal of material and attention for just \$8.00. Please join!

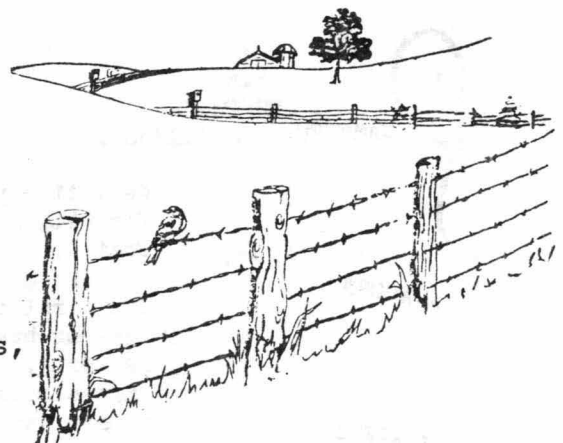


NATURE OUTING AND WORKSHOPS AT SUNNY RANCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Once again members of the St. Louis Audubon Society and guests will be privileged to enjoy the hospitality of Burrell and Ruby Pickering at their home, Sunny Ranch.

Activities will be geared to both the novice and expert. Workshops in the fields of birds, insects, pond life, wildflowers, trees and geology will be conducted by experienced naturalists.

DIRECTIONS. West on I-70 to Foristell exit, a distance of about 32 miles west of Lindbergh. Turn left and head south on Highway T for 5 miles to Highway M. Drive 1 1/2 miles of highway O. Turn left on O, drive 2 miles to Sunny Ranch gate. Enter and drive 1/2 mile to parking area. Bring lunch, and plan to have a wonderful day with friends at the most beautiful and interesting nature preserve in our area.





Saint Louis Audubon Society

CONNIE HATH, *Executive Director*

2109 BRIARGATE LANE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63122

Please enroll me in membership.....

Joint membership in Saint Louis Audubon Society
and National Audubon Society.....\$20.00.

Membership in The Saint Louis Audubon Society...\$8.00.

The membership in the Saint Louis Audubon Society will entitle you to :::: THE BULLETIN, published bi-monthly and all other mailings and notices of special events. You may participate in all activities of the Society and will receive THE VIEWFINDER, the publication of the Photography Section of the Saint Louis Audubon Society.

Name

Address and zip code

Check enclosed: \$ _____

Mail check and information to:

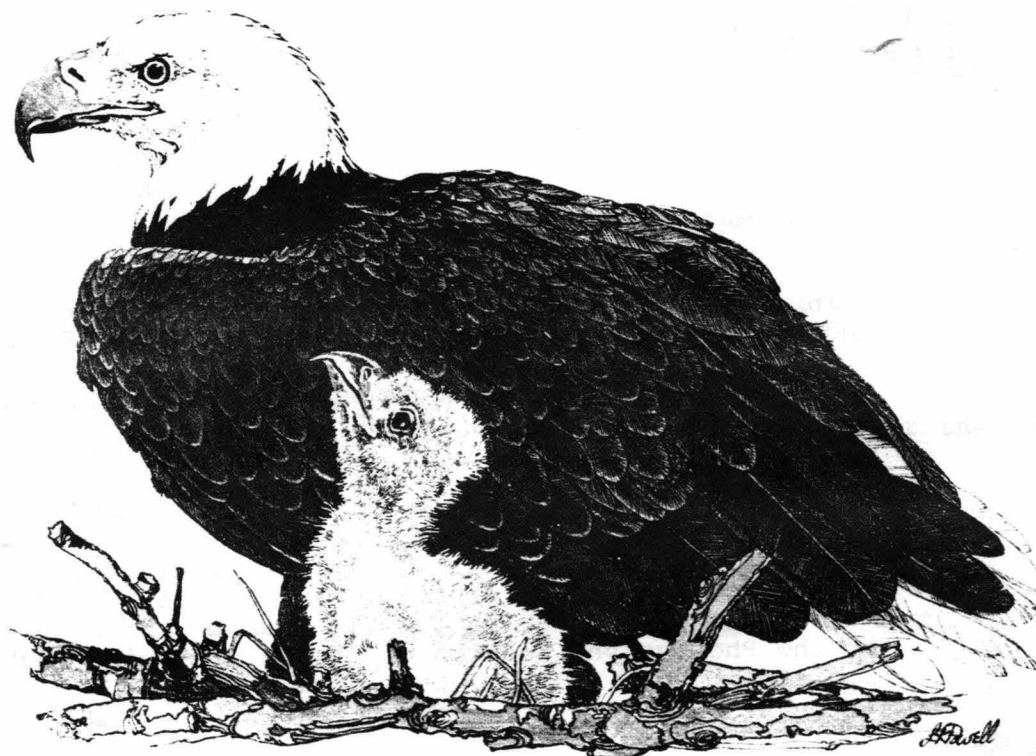
St. Louis Audubon Society
2109 Briargate Lane
St. Louis, MO. 63122

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Bald Eagle

The national bird of the U.S.A., the Bald Eagle has been a symbol of strength and courage throughout history. Found throughout the United States, the bird is now abundant only in Alaska, and many conservationists fear for its future.

This splendid bird of prey nests with its lifetime mate in the tops of tall trees. Its nest is a bulky mass of sticks, usually 6 to 8 feet across, but sometimes much larger. Bald Eagles use their nests year after year—each year adding more nesting materials—and some nests are 10 or more feet across and 20 feet deep.

During the first weeks after the eggs hatch the male fishes and brings home the food for the mother to offer the young. The small eagles are forced to learn to fly by themselves, but, once having learned flight, will remain near their parents' eyrie for several weeks before starting out on their own.

The young eagles will take 3 to 4 years to reach maturity, when, with a wing-spread of 6 to 7½ feet, they will make a magnificent figure, circling and soaring aloft.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Anyone wishing to include the Society in his will may secure a recommended form from the Treasurer.